

IN THE CLAIMS:

The presently pending claims are as follows:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material, which comprises a laminate of

a) a porous polymeric inner layer comprising porous polytetrafluoroethylene having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μ m and having on one side an oleophobic coating oriented to face said biodegradable material, said layer adhered on its opposite side to

b) at least one woven, non-woven or knit water-repellent fabric outer layer, in which the laminate has

- i) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 m³/m²/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference,
- ii) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,
- iii) an Ret less than 15 m²Pa/W;

and in which the porous polymeric layer has an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μ m porous polymeric inner layer minimizes the formation of an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover during aerobic treatment of said biodegradable material.

11. (previously presented) The cover of claim 10 wherein the laminate has a tensile strength greater than 1000 N/5 cm.

12. (original) The cover of claim 11 wherein the fabric comprises a polyester, polyacrylate; polypropylene or a fluoropolymer.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (original) The cover of claim 10 wherein the air permeability is between 15 and 50 m³/m²/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference; the water entry pressure is greater than 50 kPa; the Ret is between 2 and 10 m²/Pa/W; and the average pore size of the porous polymeric layer is between 0.3 and 3 micrometers.

16. (original) The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing towards the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 1.
17. (original) The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing toward the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 5.
18. (cancelled)
19. (currently amended) A cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material consisting essentially of a laminate of
- (a) an expanded PTFE membrane inner layer exhibiting a node and fibril structure and having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μm oriented to face said biodegradable material, and
 - (b) at least one water-repellent fabric outer layer selected from the group consisting of a woven, knit and nonwoven construction, said laminate having
 - iv) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$ at 200 Pa pressure difference,
 - v) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,an Ret less than 15 $\text{m}^2\text{Pa/W}$, and in which the porous polymeric inner layer minimizes the formation of an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover during aerobic treatment of said biodegradable material.
20. (cancelled)
21. (cancelled)
22. (currently amended) A system for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material comprising
- a cover for covering the biodegradable material comprising a laminate of a porous polymeric inner layer comprising porous polytetrafluoroethylene having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μm adhered to at least one water-repellent fabric outer layer, the laminate having
 - vi) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$ at 200 Pa pressure difference,
 - vii) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,
 - viii) an Ret less than 15 $\text{m}^2\text{Pa/W}$; andan air flow means which provides at least some flow of air through the biodegradable material, and in which the porous polymeric inner layer

minimizes the formation of an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover during aerobic treatment of said biodegradable material.